GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1164
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
COMMUNICATION COMMISSION OF INDIA
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Communication Commission of India (CCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main functions of the said Commission;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint current chairperson and members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to the similar position in the proposed CCI;

(d) if so, whether any Ministry has opposed the said proposal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): In pursuance of the New Telecom Policy-99, it is proposed to prepare a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The matter formed a specific term of reference of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence set up under the chairmanship of Finance Minister. The Group appointed a Sub-Group under the chairmanship of eminent jurist Shri Fali S.Nariman, MP for the preparation of the draft of the above said Bill, which inter alia envisages the establishment of a single autonomous statutory body to be known as the Communications Commission of India to promote,facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including telecommunications, broadcasting and multimedia), empowered to issue licences or registrations, determine licence and registration fees, tariffs and rates for services, allot spectrum, facilitate competition, protect consumer interests, etc. Several issues, including whether or not there should be transient provision for the current Chairperson and Members of TRAI, have been discussed. The draft Bill is however still under finalisation, and the report of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence in this regard is awaited.

(d) & (e): Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.